Intelligencer & Journal.

Lancaster, December 21, 1852.

GEO. SANDERSON, EDITOR.

The Printer Wants Money.

Now that the Presidential election is over and the Democracy every where triumphant, we hope our patrons will not be offended when we tell them—we mean those in arrears—that we need MONEY badly. Those indebted for subscription, advertising and job work, or either, will confer a great favor by paying us what is justly our due.—The approaching Courts will afford a favorable opportunity to many, who cannot come to town, to send it with their neighbors. Those living out of the County or State can remit by mail at our risk.

☞ We were misinformed last week when we stated that ROBERT SPRATTS was appointed Dispatcher at Columbia, by the Canal Commissioners. Mr. Spratts was appointed *Assistant* Dispatcher by Mr. Baker, the Superintendent of the Road. Mr. M'Cauly is the Dispatcher at Columbia, regularly appointed by the Canal Commissioners, and is an active, intelligent and popular officer.

The 'Good Time Coming.'

The signs of the times, remarks the Philadelphia Argus, give unmistakable indications of the approach of a period of unexampled business and commercial activity, with its usual concomitants high prices and high wages. A quickened movement in many branches of industry is already perceptible; especially in navigation and in manufactures generally. The iron manufacture has been improving for some time, consequent in some degree on the high price of iron in England. The cotton manufacturing establishments are in full operation with the promise of speedily repairing past losses, and earning handsome dividends for the future. Business generally is feeling a new impetus—money is abundant at fair rates; and everything gives promise that we are on the eve of one of the greatest periods of commercial and business prosperity the country has ever witnessed. This improved condition of things is in part attributable to extraneous causes. The immense additions of gold from California and Australia are coming to the aid of natural causes, and will greatly augment their effects, in carrying the reactionary movement of trade to a loftier altitude than it would otherwise have attained. Still, in the absence of California and Australia gold, the change would have come, though in a modified form, and with diminished intensity. For modern experience of the operations of industry and commerce, has disclosed that they pass through periodical cycles of longer or shorter duration, in which they in regular succession exhibit the phases, first of quiescence, next improvement, then activity, prosperity, excitement over-trading, convulsion, stagnation, distress, bankruptcy, ending again in quiescence. These fluctuations, or alternations in trade seem to be inherent in and inseperable from it, and the shrewd man of business counts upon their recurrence with as much certainty as the mariner looks for the equinoctial gales. No tariffs—no government measures—can avert them, as no tariffs or government measures produce them; but being the effects inseparable from the very nature of trade, they must be left to the laws of trade and the slow and certain operations of its recuperative energies to find their legitimate and adequate remedy.

REPORT OF MAJOR GENERAL SCOTT.—We learn from the annual report of the Commanding General of the Army, that for the defence of the Texan frontier there are now, under the orders of Brevet Major General Smith, fourteen companies of cavalry, two companies of artillery, with three regiments and two companies of infantry—in all, forty-eight companies; and that the force in New Mexico consists of nine companies of dragoons, two of artillery, and one regiment of infantry—in all twenty-one companies. The recruiting service, during the past year, has been prosecuted with great vigor, the number of men enlisted being 4,174. It is recommended in the report that the rules and articles of war be referred to a board of officers for revision.

☞ An extensive gang of Counterfeiters has just been discovered in New York city. The officers found a complete set of implements for counterfeiting gold dollars and sovereigns; these consisted of a large press, a galvanic battery, a set of dies, finely executed for making gold dollars, a die in an unfinished state, for making sovereigns, a large quantity of sheet brass, from which thousands of counterfeit gold dollars had been made, together with implements of every description suitable for the purpose. They also found about $75 counterfeit in gold, and a large number in an unfinished state. The gold dollars are beautifully executed, and excepting their weight, are well calculated to deceive. It is believed that thousands of them are in circulation.—Several of the counterfeiters are now in custody.

NEXT AGRICULTURAL FAIR.—At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Society, held last week, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, the 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th of September next, were fixed upon for the holding of the next State Fair; and a committee, of which Judge Watts, of Carlisle, is chairman, was appointed to receive propositions from the citizens of towns or cities desiring to have the Exhibition in their vicinity.

COLUMBIA AND PHILADELPHIA RAILROAD.—The following statement shows the receipts at the Collector's Office in Columbia for the fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1852:

From December 1, 1851, to November 30, 1852,	$331,460 51
From December 1, 1850, to November 30, 1851,	282,722 49
Increase for 1852,	$48,738 02

J. M. STRICKLER, *Collector.*

COL. SAMUEL MEDARY.—This gentleman, who is the able and high-toned editor of the Ohio Statesman, has received the recommendation of nineteen out of twenty-three of the electors of that State, for a place in Gen. Pierce's Cabinet. Col. Medary is a perfect Napoleon in a political contest, and has for a number of years been regarded as one of the best politicians in the State of Ohio. We are glad to see a valuable co-laborer so handsomely endorsed after passing through such a warm and well contested battle—it speaks well for the Democracy of that State.—*Dem. Union.*

PENNSYLVANIA LOAN.—The New York Tribune states that the balance of the new five million Pennsylvania loan, about $1,200,000 has been taken in one lot at 105, part cash, and part over due bonds at par. This is about 2 per cent. better than the first portion of the loan was negociated at.

☞ At Cincinnati, 118,854 hogs have been slaughtered the present year—about 12,000 more than during the same period last year. Some 30,000 have been slaughtered at Indianapolis, where the business is said to be rapidly increasing.

☞ G. WASHINGTON BAKER, Esq., formerly of this City, has been re-elected Recorder of the City of San Francisco, California. The salary, we believe, is $3,000.

☞ Hon. WILLIAM R. KING, the Vice President elect, still continues ill at his lodgings in Washington. He is laboring under a pulmonary disease, and fears are entertained that he will not recover.

☞ We have not yet received our CHRISTMAS TURKEY. Wonder which of our country friends intend to supply us with one?

☞ Gen. PIERCE'S majority in Virginia, is 15,281. The whole vote polled in the State was 129,545.

☞ Hon. J. GLANCY JONES, M. C. has our thanks for his polite attentions.

The Tables Turned.

The country will be struck with the singular phenomenon presented by the debate in the House of Representatives on the tariff. It will be seen that, by Whig admissions, all their theories, as to the working of Democratic policy, have been thoroughly falsified. Mr. Vinton, a Whig leader, predicted that the tariff of 1846 would not yield a revenue of eighteen millions—and Mr. Meredith, Whig Secretary of the Treasury, boldly asserted that the revenue under this tariff would not equal the expenditures of the Government, and that, at the end of the fiscal year, 1851, a deficiency of sixty millions would be found to exist. These Whig fallacies have been utterly exploded, and Mr. Brooks, a Whig leader of New York, has stepped forth to lament the too successful operation of the tariff of 1846, and to call the attention of the country to the remarkable fact that, after meeting the enormous expenditures of a Whig administration, there still remains a dangerous surplus of *twenty millions.* Mr. Brooks even goes so far as to urge a reduction of certain duties, so as to bring down the teeming fruits of the tariff of 1846, which according to Whig prophecy, was to bankrupt the treasury and to destroy the country! The views of Messrs. Bayly, Meade and Millson, as sketched in the debate, present the true ground for the Democracy to take, in response to this appeal of a Whig, which cannot but be regarded with suspicion. Let the surplus of revenue be devoted to the extinguishment of the public debt, and let us wait for the advent of the new Democratic administration, for reforming the tariff upon a proper basis, according to the best lights of intormation and experience. We, too, should repudiate the dangers of a large surplus revenue—but, from the little time allowed during this short session, and from the fact that a few short months will bring a Democratic administration into power, we should regard it as most wise and proper, that action on the tariff should be postponed. For these reasons the first motion of Mr. Brooks was voted down, and, we doubt not, his second movement will meet with the same fate. The vote is not at all to be regarded as unfavorable to a reasonable reduction of the tariff, so as to prevent an excess of revenue over and above the current expenses of an economical administration of the Government—but the Democrats prefer to act in their own way and at the proper time and with full information, from the best sources, before them.—Richmond Enquirer.

The arrangements between our City Banks and certain Note Brokers are equally as reprehensible as those already referred to, viz: they have those who are supplied with any amount of money to shave business paper. at from one to three per cent. per annum. It can be shown, that when good business paper has been rejected by the directors, and the holder called upon the Discount Clerk for his note, he has been advised by that officer, and frequently by one of the Directors, to apply to certain Brokers to have the same discounted; and being pressed for money, which frequently happens to be the case with our best houses, the holder of the note has been compelled to do so. By this system of financiering, a Bank can realize from three to five times the amount of interest allowed to be charged by law.

It can be proven, that while the merchant and other business men were receiving their notes, returned to them, rejected by the Bank, under the plausible and deceptive excuse, "want of money," they have witnessed the financial Broker of the Bank coming out of the Directors' room with a roll of bank notes in his hand.

We clip the above from an advertisement that appeared in the Ledger of Thursday last. If the statements here made are correct, and we have no reason to doubt them, then does it show a state of things which call loudly for legislative investigation and interference. The system of *shaving* which is so extensively carried on at the present day, is sufficiently odious and reprehensible in itself; but when these Brokers, as they are called, are found allied with Bank Officers and Bank Directors, for the purpose of fleecing those whose necessities compel them to submit to their exactions, it is high time that something should be done to arrest the evil.

It is but a few years since that money made by shaving notes, &c., was considered ill-gotten gain, and the business itself was considered so disreputable that it was carried on secretly. Now, however, times have changed, and Shaving Shops are starting up, openly and publicly, in every City and Borough in the Commonwealth, and the owners or occupants of them looked upon, by many, as a useful and respectable class of our citizens. O tempora! O mores!

The statements made in the above extract have reference exclusively to Philadelphia, and we sincerely hope such coalitions as are there referred to may never be found west of the Schuylkill. "Great cities are great sores on the body politic;" said Mr. Jefferson, and we of the country, in this age of steam and lightning, should be careful that such loathsome eruptions do not exhibit themselves amongst us. We are sufficiently prone to ape after the fashions of the great cities; we should be careful not to imitate their vices and corruptions.

THE GOLDEN ERA.—The receipt of gold at the U. S. Mints from California during the three years since its first discovery, has been about $150,000,000, and probably 50,000,000 more have been sent elsewhere or retained in California. The product of California is still undiminished, and that of Australia bids fair to equal if not exceed California.

According to Humboldt's tables, as quoted in the last *North American Review*, the supply of the precious metals obtained from America, from the year 1500 to 1545, was about $3,000,000 a year. From 1545 to 1600, the supply averaged $11,000,000 a year. The supply was largely increased from 1750 to 1803, the highest rate being estimated at $35,300,000. About the year 1800, the annual supply was estimated at $48,937,000, of which $12,648,000 was gold, and $36,280,000 silver. For the ten succeeding years, there was but little increase in the supply, and down to the wars in the Spanish American colonies, according to Jacob, the supply from the American mines did not exceed $20,000,000 a year. In 1834, McCulloch states the supply, from all the world at $30,000,000. In 1847, this supply was increased by the products of the Russian mines to $67,000,000.

The products of the California and other mines have swollen the amount in 1852 to $178,284,000; in gold $138,834,000, and in silver about $39,000,000 from all the world. The supply in 1852 is about six times as large as it was twenty years since.—Daily News.

ENGLISH BUTTER IN BOSTON.—The *Bee* states that 1083 firkins of butter were brought to that port by the last steamer from Europe, and that it is generally of the most delicious sort. At the same time there are tons of butter held from the market in New Hampshire, in order to obtain high prices. Butter can be brought from the most distant counties in England, and sold at a lower price than what is demanded for that made in the vicinity of Boston. The English article too, is generally much much superior. We must import butter if we want it for twenty-five cents a pound, retail. Will our dealers look into this subject, and relieve us from the gross impositions now practised.—Phil. Sun.

WHAT ARE WE COMING TO?—The New York correspondent of the Public Ledger, of Thursday last, has the following notice of the extravagance which prevails in the city of NewYork:—

We hear of balls the past week, in which diamonds and emeralds were worn worth $30,000, on the person. Thousand dollar dresses are not uncommon. Dinner parties are spoken of, where ladies appear in cloaks embroidered with pearls, &c.—What are we coming to?

The extravagance of the city, and the people of the city are going into, exceeds anything in our previous history. Costly houses of $75,000 and $100,000 with furniture, mirrors, carpeting, pictures frescoe, &c., to match, are not uncommon—but there are dinners, *soirees, fetes*, dresses, &c., to match.

☞ To day is the shortest day of the year.

Congressional.

DECEMBER, 14.

SENATE.—The Senate met at 12½ o'clock.

The President (Mr. King) being still ill, though not confined to his room, Mr. Atchison again took the chair.

Numerous petitions, &c., were presented.

Mr. Mason introduced the bill of which he gave notice yesterday, to amend the Civil and Diplomatic Appropriation Bill of last session, in the clause relating to the appropriation for continuing the survey of the Mexican Boundary.

The usual resolutions for the reference of the general subjects of the President's Message to the appropriate committees were then moved and adopted.

Mr. Davis, of Mass., then arose and proceeded to speak on that portion of the President's message relating to the death of the Hon. Daniel Webster.—He spoke of the great national bereavement, and pronounced a high and feeling eulogy on the life and services of the deceased.

Messrs. Butler, Cass, and Seward, followed in eloquent and impressive eulogies.

Madame Alboni entered the chamber while Mr. Seward was speaking, and listened to the speeches with much interest.

Mr. Stockton also spoke at some length of the high character and services of Mr. Webster.

The Senate then adjourned.

HOUSE.—The House met at a quarter past 12 o'clock.

Several motions were made, but objections to them were raised.

The House then, on motion, again resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the state of the Union, and resumed the consideration of Mr. Houston's resolution for the reference of the various subjects of the President's message.

The question still being upon Mr. Brooks' motion to refer the portion of the message relative to the Tariff to a select committee.

Mr. Meade, of Va., took the floor, and spoke at some length of the impolicy of legislation upon the Tariff question at the present session.

The debate was further continued by Messrs. Stanton, of Ohio, and Millison, of Va., who expressed their views upon the Tariff at considerable length.

Mr. Giddings, of Ohio, then having the floor,

The Committee rose, and

The House adjourned.

THE ART UNION OF PHILADELPHIA.—This institution, incorporated in 1844, has suffered misfortune and consequent difficulties which threatned, at one time, to destroy it. Through the generous aid, however, of a number of native and resident artists, backed by the support of an intelligent public, it has managed to survive the embarrassment which so severely crippled its energies, and, if properly sustained hereafter, promises to attain a degree of prosperity greater than it has ever before enjoyed. There should be a more earnest desire felt, at this time especially, to foster this society, and place it on a durable foundation, since, in the late dissolution of the New York Art Union, and the precarious condition of other similar associations elsewhere, it may remain the only organized nursery of American genius and taste in painting and sculpture, of its kind, in this country. For such a position of distinction it is fortunately adapted by its constitution, which was framed to effect the express object of the society, to wit: the "promotion of the arts of design in the United States;" and this liberal and comprehensive scope of effort and object secure a national interest in, and maintenance of, an establishment whose usefulness cannot well be exaggerated.

The annual distribution of prizes will certainly take place on the 31st of December next. The engraving for the year, to one copy of which every subscriber will be entitled, is now in process of execution, by an accomplished artist, after Rothermel's great picture of Patrick Henry pronouncing his famous Anti-Stamp act speech in the Virginia House of Burgesses. The original work itself founded on a most interesting event in our Revolutionary history, was painted expressly, at a cost of one thousand dollars, for the first prize of the Philadelphia Art Union for the present year. It has been recognized by able critics as the master-piece of the author, and is certainly among the highest efforts of native talent yet produced. Whether viewed as a whole, or judged with reference to the artistic merits of its different parts, it exhibits extraordinary care and skill in elaboration, and stands before the spectator a graphic representation, perfect in finish and detail, of a grand initiatory step in that sublime historic drama which closed with the establishment of American independence. It is an evidence of the generous enterprize of the society to procure the execution of so extensive and evidently meritorious a painting as this, as an offering to its members, and the subject, as well as the admirable manner in which it has been delineated, may well cause every one to feel a patriotic desire to possess the picture as a noble heirloom to his posterity.

In addition to this first, grand prize, there are more than fifty others, consisting of original pictures, ranging in value from fifty to five hundred dollars, and contributed as free gifts to the society by a number of the most distinguished American artists. Several of these works have been finished and are now suspended from the walls of the Philadelphia Art Union's gallery, where we saw them recently, and where they, with many other fine specimens of art, are free to the inspection of all.—*North American.*

MR. CHARLES M. HOWELL, in North Queen street, is the Secretary for Lancaster, and will receive subscriptions. As the drawing will take place at the commencement of the New Year, those who intend subscribing should do so without delay.

California.

We give the following extract from a letter published in the New Haven Register:

In my travels through the country, everything that I see confirms me in the belief that California now is not what it once was. One thing, if nothing more, confirms this, and that is, I have not seen a young forest tree in my travels—they are all antediluvians, or nearly such; and when those old forest trees were young, they enjoyed refreshing showers through the summer—if not, there would now be young trees starting up. No young trees can stand a draught of eight months. It would be foolish to contend that the timber of California started in its infancy under the present ordeal of seasons. Again, the rivers and ravines in the mountains show marks of fast running water, at three different points above the present one. The highest mark is about seventy-five feet above the present water, and must have kept at that height for years, to have cut out solid ground in the way it has. In fact, California is the most interesting country in my mind, for the geologist, that there is on the globe. The manner in which the gold is scattered over the country, and the shape it is found, in sea shells, on the top of the highest mountains, plainly shows that there is nothing that is not susceptible of being changed from one appearance to another, by nature's operations, in almost the twinkling of an eye.

The volcanoes that at the present time vomit forth fire and smoke here in this golden country, may at no distant day make this a part of old ocean, and at the same time form a new continent in the now middle of the Pacific. The whole coast range on the Pacific, from Patagonia to Bhering's Straits, is one continued link of burning mountains. Peaks tower up above the clouds, without end, and roll fire and smoke, so it is impossible at first sight to tell what you have before you. One peak is burning one day—the next day you look for it, and it is gone, and in its place a valley; and to the right or left, you discern a new peak, and that lashing its sides with fire and smoke. Such are the changes that Nature's God works with the elements. Such has been the case, from the time that time began and will so continue, as long as that most subtle, Electricity, exists.

Book Notices.

ROBERT AND HAROLD, OR THE YOUNG MAROONERS ON THE FLORIDA COAST—is the title of a neatly bound book of over 400 pages beautifully embellished, written by Rev. F. R. Goulding, and just published by WILLIAM S. MARTIEN, No. 154 Chesnut street, Philadelphia.

To the young especially the book will be found exceedingly entertaining and instructive, abounding as it does in thrilling incidents, as well as useful lessons of a religious character. Speaking of the work, a well known writer says: "This charming little book was intended by its author for young people; but its graceful pictures, piquant conversation, and happy, healthful tone, will render it a favorite with those of more mature years. It reminds us of Robinson Crusoe, while it is entirely free from all charge of imitation of that unequalled companion of children and parents."

The book is for sale at MURRAY & STORR'S, in this city, to whose politeness we are indebted for a copy; and we advise our young friends to call there and examine it for themselves.

☞ The AMERICAN PHRENOLOGICAL JOURNAL is published monthly in New York, by FOWLER & WELLS, No. 131 Nassau street and furnished to subscribers at $1 per annum. It is mainly devoted to the illustration and defense of Phrenological principles, and is not excelled by any other monthly serial for its neatness, and the amount of useful information therein contained. A new volume commences with the January No., and this is a fitting time to subscribe.

☞ A terrific storm prevailed on Lake Ontario, on Saturday. A number of vessels were lost.

City and County Items.

☞ The PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY, of this city, intend giving another Concert at Fulton Hall, on Christmas evening. We hope they may have a full house. They deserve to be liberally patronized by the lovers of good music.

Mr. R. J. TURNER, the celebrated Balladist, will assist at the Concert.

☞ JESSE OWEN, M. D. has purchased the Strasburg Academy Buildings.

☞ A new Post Office has been established at Oak Shade, in this county, and EDWARD A. LAURON appointed P. M.

WILLIAM MCCHESNEY has been appointed P. M. at Gordonsville, in this county, vice H. Freeland, resigned.

DEDICATION.—The M. E. Church, in Columbia, will be dedicated to the service of God on Sunday, the 26th inst. Prof. Wentworth, of Dickinson College and other eminent ministers are expected to be present and assist in the services of the occasion.

LANCASTER LIGHT INFANTRY.—The members of the corps, and all others in favor of its thorough re-organization, will meet for that purpose, on Thursday evening next, at 7 o'clock, at their Armory in Fulton Hall. By order of the Committee.

☞ The members of FULTON LODGE, No. 451 I. O. O. F. are requested to be punctual in their attendance at the Lodge room, on Monday evening next, the 27th inst., as a Lecture will be delivered by the D. D. G. M. Members of other Lodges in the city and county are invited to be present.

☞ The Second Presbyterian Congregation, of this city, are in negociation for the purchase of the Mechanics' Institute Building, in South Queen street, for the purpose of changing it into a Church. The building is a good one, and well located for the purpose.

☞ Capitalists are invited to look at the advertisement in another column for the sale of the "CARLISLE IRON WORKS." This is one of the finest and most desirable estates in Cumberland county, if not in the Commonwealth.

MASONIC.—At the annual election for officers of he Masonic Lodge, of this city, last week, the following gentlemen were chosen: Charles M. Howell, Worshipful Master; G. M. Zahm, Senior Warden; Chas. W. Cooper, Junior Warden; J. M. Westheaffer, Secretary; Henry Hess, Treasurer; Robt. Moderwell, F. H. Carpenter and J. J. Keller, Trustees.

A new Lodge of the Order is about to be organized in this City.

THE COLUMBIA GAS WORKS.—On the 2nd inst., the following persons were elected officers of the Company for the ensuing year:

President—Samuel W. Mifflin.

Managers—John A. Hook, P. F. Fry, Dr. W. S. McCorcle, J. W. Cottrell, James S. McMahon, Amos S. Green.

Secretary and Treasurer—Amos S. Green.

☞ Our friend LEWIS HALDY has removed his Marble Manufactory from Chesnut to North Queen st., west side, between Reese's and McGrann's Hotels, a few doors south of the Railroad, formerly Leonard & Bear's establishment. HALDY is an adept in his profession, and from his well-known energy and business qualifications will doubtless command a fine share of public patronage in his new location.

☞ Mr. R. J. TURNER, the great American Balladist, gave two of his inimitable Concerts in this City, last week, to large and delighted audiences.—He is, without a doubt, one of the best vocalists we have ever listened to, and his entertainments are of that chaste and unexceptionable character as cannot fail to attract crowded houses for him wherever he goes. "I would not Die in Spring Time," and "The last Rose of Summer," as sung by him, in his peculiar artistic style, are alone worth the price of admission.

☞ The PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL JOURNAL, for December, fully sustains the previously acquired reputation of this useful and excellent periodical. Mr. Burrowes has the talents and tact to make it more and more useful and interesting with every succeeding number, and we are pleased to find that his labors in the glorious cause of education are being duly appreciated by the community.

☞ MURRAY & STORR have on hand and are daily receiving at their Bookstore, in North Queen street, a splendid assortment of ANNUALS and GIFT Books, suitable for the Holidays. Their stock of Religious, Literary, Scientific, Medical, Legal, Historical and Miscellaneous Books, cannot be excelled any where. They have also received a splendid assortment of PORTMONAIES and CARD CASES of the newest styles, together with Fancy articles of various kinds. All together, their immense and well selected stock cannot fail to attract lots of customers.

DARING ROBBERY.—A stranger who arrived in this place on Wednesday evening last, by the slow line of cars, was robbed (according to his statement) under the following circumstances:—Two men met him as he stepped off the cars, and offered to direct him to a suitable hotel. After taking him somewhere into the ally between Cherry and Union streets, one of the persons presented a pistol to his breast, and threatened to shoot him should he make any resistance. They then rifled his pockets of all the money he had—about forty dollars—and fled. He immediately gave the alarm, but it was too late to detect the perpetrators of the high-handed outrage.

We understand that several persons, shortly after the occurrence, visited the residence of a colored man named Sawney, whom they suspected as one of the party. The fellow was in the house, but made his escape and has not been heard of since, from which circumstance it is supposed that their suspicions were well grounded.—*Columbia Spy.*

TEMPERANCE MEETING.—The Lancaster County Temperance Society met on Friday last, in the Mechanics' Institute in this city, Dr. Gibbons, President of the Society, in the chair, and Mr. John F. Houston, of Columbia, Secretary pro tem. Rev. Pennel Coombe opened the meeting with prayer, after which the delegates presented their credentials. On motion a business committee was appointed, who subsequently reported resolutions which were severally adopted. They resolved that the successful operation of Prohibitory Liquor laws in other States proves their wisdom; that the entire suppression of the traffic in liquor as a beverage is the only adequate remedy for the evils of intemperance; that the growing popularity of this principle, as manifested by the vote of Lancaster and other counties, is encouraging to its friends; and that the only legislation required is to withdraw all sanction now given by law, and to prohibit it as lotteries, gambling, &c., are prohibited. Messrs. J. M. W. Geist, Rev. P. Coombe, Enos Conrad, John F. Houston, Rev. H. Harbaugh, Dr. Gibbons and H. W. Hess were appointed a central committee to prepare a form of petition to the Legislature, &c. Adjourned to meet in Lancaster on Saturday, January 8, at 11 o'clock.—*Independent Whig.*

BALTIMORE, Dec. 14.—One of the most bold and daring highway robberies ever perpetrated in any community, was committed here this evening. As H. Childs, Esq., Collector of the Customs at Vienna, Dorchester county, Md., was, about half-past 5 o'clock, passing along Lombard street, near South, a rope was thrown around his neck, and he was dragged into an alley and robbed of $3,500 in gold, $1200 in Baltimore notes, a draft for $1400, on New York, and his watch. At the instant the noose was thrown round the stranger's neck a handful of lime was thrown into his eyes and mouth, blinding and strangling him, so that the robbers escaped before he could recover sufficiently to give an alarm. His pockets were all cut open, and his flesh grazed, with a knife.

☞ A State Educational Convention will be held in Harrisburg on Tuesday, the 28th inst.

"OBSERVER" of the Ledger, has'nt yet succeeded in fixing a Cabinet for President PIERCE!

The Railroad Case.

On Wednesday last, in the Supreme Court now in session at Philadelphia, the two cases of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company against the Canal Commissioners, and David Miller, against the same asking for a mandamus, were called up, and the, argument commenced on a demurrer put in by the respondents.

We glean the subjoined proceedings of the first day, from the Philadelphia Sun of Tuesday:

The above writs were granted by the Court on the 9th September, 1852, and made returnable on the 28th of the same month, but subsequently enlarged, on motion of respondents counsel, to 11th October, 1852.

The petitions and affidavits show the following facts:

The relators in both cases had been for a long time in the use of the Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad, with the approbation and consent of the respondents, by passenger cars, drawn by the motive power of the Commonwealth; that on the 19th of August, 1852, they duly offered their cars, as usual, at both *termini* of the said railroad, for attachment to the State locomotive for transportation over the said railroad; that such attachment was refused by order of the Canal Commissioners; and that their cars were not transported over the railroad, in consequence of such order or refusal. The relators allege that said order was in pursuance of a resolution on the part of the respondents to exclude them, and all other persons, except Bingham & Dock, from the use of said railroad. Both the relators had paid the legal tolls, and offered to pay them on the 19th of August last, when their cars were severally refused transportation.

That these acts of the Canal Commissioners were done in pursuance of a contract made on the 19th day of May, 1852, with Bingham & Dock, who were transporters of merchandise on the public works, for the transportation of all passengers and mails over the said railroad for four years from the 1st of July ensuing, except those in the cars of the West Chester Railroad Company, and in market cars. This contract makes the Commonwealth *the transporter* of all passengers over the Columbia Railroad. Bingham & Dock receive a compensation as *agents of the State* for superintending the business of transportation, and collecting the fare.—They are also to furnish the cars.

The compensation to Bingham & Dock is not *a fixed sum*, but dependent on the number of passengers carried, being five mills per mile on each and every passenger carried, and two and a half mills per mile on each emigrant passenger carried. They are entitled to *one fifth* of the toll charged by the Commonwealth for carrying the mail. It is an express stipulation in the contract, that Bingham & Dock shall have "*the exclusive right of carrying all passengers over the railroad aforesaid*, except those before recited, as being those now earried by the West Chester Railroad Company and by market cars."

This contract was made without any *public notice*, calling for proposals for such a contract.

The object of these proceedings is to compel the Canal Commissioners to attach or permit the attachment of relator's passenger cars respectively to the motive power of the Commonwealth, for transportation over the Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad.

The respondents put in a demurrer to the pleadings.

Judge Lewis informed the respondents, that if they relied upon the demurrer, the matter would be argued upon the record; but if the facts were denied, the Court would send it to a jury for decision upon the facts.

Wm. M. Meredith said, that a demurrer had been put in by respondents—a practice which he thot' had not been in use since the act of 1836. He said that a demurrer has the same effect as a peremptory mandamus. In this case, every fact material to the issue was admitted by the respondents. Such matters as have been improperly pleaded, ought not to stand upon this motion. Such facts as are pleaded by respondents should be absolute, and not such expressions as that certain facts are not before the Court on the question of mandamus—and that, at the time the grievance was complained of, Mr. Miller was but part owner of the cars on the road, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company being the owner of about seven-eighth parts of them.—This is no pleading at all. The matter before the Court being a pleading at common law, the respondents must aver their facts positively, and with clearness and precision. Although there were smaller matters connected with the question, which were sufficient to send the case off for a time, yet the sole question was a great public one, however it might be clouded by numerous printed pages.—It was simply whether the Canal Commissioners have, by law, a right to give the exclusive privilege to any person whom they choose to designate, to carry passengers over the Columbia Railroad, and whether they have done so? And whether the Pennsylvania Railroad Company have a right to use the Columbia Railroad.

The questions of jurisdiction did not appear to him to require an argument, either in law or as to custom. To say, that because the Canal Commissioners did not reside in the West District, they could not be sued in Pittsburg, would be idle; because, residing as they do in separate districts, they would be beyond the reach of the great prerogatives of this writ. Their official residence is wherever they transact business, and not where their officeis located. By the act of 1825, they can fix their place of business wherever they please; and if they can only be proceeded against where their office for business is located, they could evade suit brought against them by any citizen, by merely removing their business office from place to place.

Mr. Meredith argued this question at considerable length.

St. George T. Campbell, on behalf of the Canal Commissioners, followed Mr. Meredith. He examined all the acts of Assembly in reference to the subject of the Pennsylvania works, as well as those relating to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, and argued that from their very wording the Canal Commissioners were clearly right in the course they had pursued. He also quoted English authorities, to show that the Pennsylvania Railroad Company must, if they wish their powers extended, go to the Legislature, and that they cannot appeal to Courts of Justice to give them powers which the acts of Assembly have failed to do.

Mr. Campbell was followed on the same side by Mr. Stanton, of Pittsburg. The arguments of both Mr. Campbell and the latter gentleman were powerful, but as all the speakers were limited to a certain space of time, it was utterly impossible for any reporter to follow them through their arguments. Three hours' argument was forced in to an hours' time each.

Meredith, Dallas and Tyson, appear for the plaintiffs, and Stanton, St. George T. Campbell and Champneys for respondents.

Messrs. CHAMPNEYS and BELL handed in to the Court written arguments—the rule having excluded more than two of the counsel from speaking on each.

The decision of the Court will be made known this week.

From California.

Arrival of the Illinois—$2,500,000 in Gold—The Fires in Sacramento City, San Francisco, and Marysville.—Highly interesting News.

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—The steamship Illinois, with the California mail of the 10th, and 540 passengers, arrived at this port about 7 o'clock this morning. She has on freight $2,138,460 32 in gold, and $400,000 in the hands of passengers, making a total of two and a half millions.

The Illinois sailed from Aspinwall on the evening of the 2d, making the entire trip through from San Francisco in 26 days, besides a delay at Aspinwall, for baggage. Her passengers came down to Panama by the Golden Gate.

Our dates from Panama are to Dec. 1st.

The rainy season on the Isthmus had closed, and the heat was very intense—the thermometer standing at 85.

The Government of Ecuador have issued a decree branding Flores and his partizans as pirates, and forbidding them ever again entering Ecuador. The National Legislature of Ecuador had authorized the President to declare and make war against Peru, in case of satisfaction and reparation was not made for its participation in the expedition of Gen. Flores.

The Sacramento *Union* states that the fire in that city broke out about 1 o.clock on the night of November 2d, and was first discovered in a miliner's shop, situated in the heart of one the most combustible blocks in the city; the wind was blowing a gale at the time, and the flames spread with fearful rapidity. In the short space of three hours, sixteen hundred buildings were in ashes, and with them an immense amount of goods.

The total number of buildings burned was 2500. Eight or ten lives were lost.

Within the nine days previous to the sailing of the steamer, 350 houses had been rebuilt, and hundreds of others were rapidly going up.

The contributions from the towns and cities in the vicinity, in aid of the sufferers were liberal—San Francisco alone subscribed $30,000.

The fire at Marysville consumed an entire block involving a loss of $100,000.

The fire at San Francisco was confined to a single half block, bounded by Kearney, Merchant, Clay and Montgomery streets. Loss about $100,000.

The Presidential election passed off with spirit. About 70,000 votes were polled. Pierce's majority was between four and five thousand. The entire Democratic State and Congressional ticket had also been elected, but by a reduced majority. The next Legislature will be largely Democratic.

Three Days Later from Europe.

ARRIVAL OF THE AFRICA.

The English Budget—The Inaugural Address of the Emperor Napoleon—Advance of Wheat and Flour.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.

The royal mail steamship Africa, from Liverpool, bringing dates to the 4th inst., being three days later, arrived here about three o'clock this afternoon.

The Liverpool Cotton Market is firm, and an advance of ¼d had been realized. The sales for the week foot up 47,000 bales, of which 16,000 bales were taken on speculation, and 2,000 for export.

The Liverpool Corn Market was more animated, and Flour, Wheat and Corn were advancing. Large sales of Western Canal Flour had been made at 26s a 28s, and Philadelphia and Baltimore at 26s a 27s. Corn had advanced 6d a 1s.

ENGLAND.

On Wednesday afternoon, very strong rumors were prevalent on the London Exchange; of a break up in the Ministry, and it was positively asserted that D'Israeli was out. In other quarters the impression prevailed that Lord Palmerston, Sir James Graham, and Mr. Gladstone were about to join the Government and the reason assigned for the Chancellor's session was that his budget had too great a leaning to Free Trade. After some hours, the rumor subsided, having depressed the funds, but caused no actual decline.

FRANCE.

On Thursday, at one o'clock, P. M, Napoleon made his public entry, as Emperor, into Paris. A brief telegraphic dispatch in the London papers, says his entry took place amid acclamations of the people, the National Guard, and the Army. The formal proclamation of the Empire was made at the Hotel de Ville, at 10 A. M.

The Minister of the Interior has refused to authorize the formation of the new Banking Company, which was attempted to be established in opposition to Fould's new Bank, "du Credit Foncier."—The movement in favor of the opposition Company, was supported by the houses of Rothchild and other bankers, as well as by many of the commercial interests of Paris.

THE EMPIRE ANNOUNCED.—The votes were counted on the 2d inst., and after the result was announced, the Emperor addressed the Chambers as follows:

"Messieurs—"The new reign which you this day inaugurate derives not its origin, as so many others recorded in history have done, from violence, from conquest or fraud. It is what you have just declared it—the legal résult of the will of a whole people, who consolidate in calm that which they had founded in the midst of agitation. I am penetrated with gratitude towards the nation which, three times in four years, sustained me by its suffrages, and each time has only augmented its majority to increase my power; but the more that power increases in extent and vital power, the more does it need enlightened men, such as those who every day surround me—independent men, such as those whom I address, to guide me by their counsel, to bring back my authority within proper limits, if it could ever quit them.

I take from this day, with the crown, the name of *Napoleon the Third*, because the will of the people has bestowed it on me in their acclamations, because the whole nation has ratified it. Is it then to be inferred that, in accepting the title, I fall into the error imputed to the prince, who returning from exile, declared null and void all that had been done in his absence.

Far from me be such a wild mistake. Not only do I recognize the governments which have preceded me, but I inherit in some manner all that they have accomplished of good and of evil; for governments which succeeded one to another are, notwithstanding different origin, liable for their predecessors; but the more completely that I accept all that for fifty years history transmits to us, with her inflexible authority, the less it has permitted me to pass in silence over the glorious reign of the head of my family; and regular, though ephemeral title of his son, whom the two Chambers proclaimed in the last burst of vanquished patriotism.

Thus then the title of Napoleon the Third, is not one of the dynastic superanuated pretensions which seem to be an insult to good sense and truth; it is the homage rendered to a government which was legitimate, and to which we owe the brightest pages of our modern history. My reign does not date from 1815, it dates from this very moment, when you have announced the suffrages of the nation. Receive then my thanks, gentlemen of the Chamber of Deputies, for the eclat you have given to the manifestation of the national will, by rendering it more evident by your supervision, and imposing by your declaration.

I thank you also, gentlemen of the Senate, for having been the first to address congratulations to me, as you were the first to give expression to the popular wish. Aid me, all of you, to sit firm in the land—upset by too many revolutions—a stable government, which shall have for its basis religion, probity, and love.

For the suffering classes, receive here my oath that no sacrifice shall be wanting on my part to ensure the prosperity of my country, and whilst I shall steadily maintain peace, I will yield in nothing which may touch the honor or dignity of France.

The Empire will be proclaimed in all the Departments, Sunday, December 5th.

The Imperial crown was ordered some time since and is nearly ready. M Lemonnie, the jeweller on the place Vendome, whose stall at the London Exhibition last year contained the Queen of Spain's jewels, is the artist. He is also preparing a casket of jewels for the future Empress.

Gen. Bybinski, the distinguished Polish General has forwarded an address to the Emperor, saying that the Poles will range under his banner, should France renew her wars.

A Birmingham, house has receivedan order to co